

Southeast News

PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

"THAT THEY MAY ALL BE ONE"

Volume 36

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Number 3



READY FOR CHRISTMAS

It sometimes appears that the secular world gets ahead of the Christian world at every turn. Take the matter of Christmas - the celebration that comes as a gift to the world from the faith found in the Christian community. The commercial interests cannot wait until Thanksgiving is over before the Christmas shopping is in full force.

How do we Christians in the midst of all this hype truly prepare for the real meaning of Christmas? For one, we can try to keep a sense of balance in the midst of the commercialism. While not giving up the pleasures of giving and receiving gifts we can opt in the direction of simplicity to keep both our checkbooks and our awareness of the true values in balance. Secondly, we can focus on cutting through the sentimentality of the season to find again the bed-rock of the Christmas story - the gift of God's Son to a weary

and sin-sick world. Thirdly, we can focus on making that Love more real in our lives and in our world by remembering and sharing with those who most need to hear the "words of great joy" which are meant for all.

In this spirit may all of us in this Southeast Conference Family get ready for Christmas. Greetings and prayerful best wishes to all from those of us who are privileged to serve you as Conference Staff.

Emmitt O. Floyd
Kathy Martin
Darryl Mullins

Harmon A. Blankenship
David E. Loer

The Southern Regional Office of the Office for Church Life and Leadership joins in these greetings and warm wishes.

Joyce B. Hyera
Jan Hess

◆CONFERENCE CORNER◆ OUR CHURCH'S WIDER MISSION

By Dr. Emmett O. Floyd



The second challenge is to encourage each church to accept a goal for OCWM giving during 1986 and to let the commission know this amount. This action will be of great assistance in developing a workable budget for 1986.

The officers, directors and staff of the Conference are prayerfully optimistic that our churches will see the need and respond with generosity to our common work together personified in our OCWM gifts. Thank you for your concern and sharing your gifts.

As the enclosed listing of church contributions to OCWM will indicate, we are behind on our projected needs for 1985. While our designated gifts to special causes (OGHS, African Relief, NIN, etc.) are up, our giving to Basic Support OCWM (which underwrites the program of the Southeast Conference and the National church) is only slightly ahead of 1984 (and behind the budget we adopted for 1985).

The Outreach Commission is now challenging our churches for two responses. The first one is to ask every church to do its best to meet or add to its OCWM goal for 1985. Our books will be kept open a few days after the end of the year to enable these gifts to be counted for 1985. We hope every church in this conference will be as generous as possible to help us make up the current short-fall. If we do not respond, our giving to the work of the United Church of Christ national budget will be in arrears.

UCC Christmas Tree Ornament◆

Again this year, the Stewardship Council offers a pewter Christmas tree ornament that features the United Church of Christ emblem and the words, "That They May All Be One." The UCC Christmas tree ornament makes a fine gift for volunteer workers or others in the congregation. In the shape of a Christmas tree, the ornament measures 3 inches by 2 1/2 inches. The cost is \$5.95 each or \$4.95 each for quantities of 10 or more. There is a shipping and handling charge of 10% of the value of the order, plus \$1.00. Order from: Stewardship Council Distribution Service, 1400 N. 7th Street, St. Louis, MO 63106-4596. Or call, toll-free, (800) 325-7061.

(We also have a few in the Conference office)

"LENA'S PLACE"....

...is a coffee house that Central Congregational Church in Atlanta holds in their fellowship hall every month. It is more than great entertainment and good food. The proceeds from "Lena's Place" are applied to the principal of the Werking Fund, named for Lena Werking.

Mrs. Werking would be delighted to see how Central Congregational Church is using her gift. It was said of her that "she was a missionary in her own country" and through her gift, her work goes on still.



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UNITED CHURCH NEWS WANTS YOUR NEWS

What can other UCC churches learn from the experiences of your congregation? Does your church have innovative and helpful services of worship, outreach, educational or fellowship programs that you would like to share with churches across the country? Send your news and photos to "Across the UCC," United Church News, 105 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016. Thank you for your support.

Sharon Solt, Editorial Assistant

(P.S. The Southeast News would also like to know what you are doing. Send articles to:

Ms. Kathy Martin, Editor  
P. O. Box 29883
Atlanta, GA 30359

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☆☆☆ Curt's Nuggets ☆☆☆

(From Curtis R. Schumacher of Pleasant Hill, TN)

Our heart will always be directed toward that which we consider our supreme good. Is that "supreme good" God or ourselves.

.....

Mrs. Werking was a member of Central Church from 12/31/44 until her death on 2/2/77. Upon her death, she left the residue of her estate to Central Church with which bank certificates were purchased. Each year, the interest from these certificates is withdrawn and used for some benevolent purpose chosen from projects submitted to Central's Mission Action Board. Funds have been used to buy a freezer for the Battered Women Shelter, repairs for a church bus (of another denomination) which is used in a Shelter Ministry for Atlanta's homeless, and to help in purchasing a home to be refurbished for a needy family.

Mrs. Werking was born Lena Spencer in Argyle, Maine. She graduated from Maine Central Normal School in Pittsfield, MA. While teaching in Westfield, MA, she worked with Americanization Classes. There was a large foreign population whom she helped so that they could more easily become United States citizens.

In 1921, she moved to Lexington, KY to the Chandler School, which was a Vocational School for Black people. In 1944, she married Mr. Werking, after which they came to Atlanta, where they were active in Rush Memorial Congregational Church before joining Central Congregational.

CONFERENCE CALENDAR

DECEMBER, 1985

- 6 - East Alabama Christmas Dinner
Central Alabama Christmas
Dinner
- 13- S. AL-NW FL Christmas Dinner,
Liberty Church, Brantley, AL
SEC Annual Meeting Planning
Committee, Atlanta, GA
- 14 - N. Alabama Christmas Dinner,
First Church at Caddo, Trinity,
AL
- 24 - SEC Office Closed, Christmas Eve
- 25- MERRY CHRISTMAS, SEC Office
Closed

JANUARY, 1986

- 1 - New Year's Day, SEC Office
Closed
- 6-10 Consultation XI, Orlando, FL
- 15- Outreach Commission, 1:00 pm,
Conference Office (Social Action
Sub-committee meets at 7:30
pm)
- 16- Finance Committee meets at the
conference office at 5:00 pm.
- 20- Martin Luther King's Birthday,
SEC office closed.
- 24-25- East AL Youth Leadership
Retreat, Camp Grandview.
- 31- Area-wide Mission Strategy
Committee.

MARCH, 1986

- 7-8- Board of Directors Meeting

In Loving Memory




THE REV. HOMER C. McEWEN, DD

The United Church of Christ, and especially the Southeast Conference, lost one of its most distinguished ministers this summer. The funeral for the Pastor Emeritus of First Congregational Church in Atlanta was held on August 7th.


A graduate (summa cum laude) of Dillard University and Chicago Theological Seminary (cum laude) in 1940 and Doctor of Divinity in 1963, Dr. McEwen had a remarkable career as a pastor and professor. Active in denominational and community affairs he was also a loving husband and father. His leadership, preaching eloquence and Christian spirit were of inestimable value in aiding the Southeast Conference to become an integrated conference in 1966. Our deepest Christian sympathy is extended to his devoted wife of fifty years and his children, Cynthia, Elaine, Phyllis and Homer C., Jr.

ORDINATIONS

 On Sunday, September 22nd, the Rev. Wayde Washburn, pastor of Jones Chapel in Woodbury, GA, was ordained to the Gospel Ministry. A large congregation was present for this inspiring service with Rev. Sandye Mullins as the preacher, and the ordination conducted by the East Alabama Association.

One of the notable features of this service was that both signing for the deaf and a copy of the program in Braille was made available.

Mr. Washburn is a graduate of Auburn University and Candler School of Theology at Emory University.

 The Rev. Frances Jean Ruthven was ordained into the Christian Ministry on Sunday, October 27, 1985, during the Georgia-South Carolina Association's Annual Meeting held at First Congregational Church in Atlanta, GA. The Rev. Don Wells, pastor of First Congregational Church in Melrose, MA, preached the sermon.

Ms. Ruthven, received her BA in Religion from the University of Georgia. She attended Yale and Harvard Divinity Schools from which she received her M.Div. in 1981. Rev. Ruthven has been called to be pastor of Columbus United Congregational Christian Church in Columbus, GA.

UCC WOMEN'S WEEK FEBRUARY 2-8, 1986

*Women of Faith:
Trust the Promise*



The United Church of Christ Coordinating Center for Women announces the first UCC Women's Week, a week of celebration of the gifts of women in the church. The dates for UCC Women's Week are February 2-8, 1986.

February 2, Christian Vocation Sunday, begins UCC Women's Week--an opportunity for congregations to experience the power of partnership of women together in the church, supporting the whole mission of the United Church of Christ. The Coordinating Center for Women will provide resources for the week, including worship materials, a Bible study, and ideas for projects and programs.

The theme for UCC Women's Week is "Women of Faith: Trust the Promise." This theme is drawn from the gospel text for the week: Luke 4:21-30.

Resources for UCC Women's Week will be sent directly to partners in UCC Women in Mission. For information on joining UCC Women in Mission, or to request resource materials, contact the Coordinating Center for Women, United Church of Christ, 105 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016.

WOMEN'S TIME

Over half of the mothers of pre-school or elementary-age children are now in the labor force. Many are constantly tired. Why? In addition to their jobs in the work place, they must be nurturers and housewives. Time is their scarcest resource.

Time, like money, is spent, but time cannot be set aside for future use. Each instant of time is allocated to paid-work, unpaid work, or leisure (all other uses of time).

Every day these mothers race the clock, hoping to find time to shop, cook, clean, launder, iron, mend, and especially to pay attention to their children - to read to them, to play with them, to check on their school progress, to share private moments with them. The only leisure time these women have for personal and spiritual refreshment may be during Sunday services.

While husbands now devote more time to household duties and child rearing, most unpaid employment is still performed by women. The adage that "woman's work is never done" continues to hold. Furthermore, many women are single parents.

Both culture and biology influence the allocation of women's time over their life spans. The biological impact has been affected by bearing fewer children at a later age. Women now choose to devote more time to education and paid work. While our culture now accepts women in most marketplace jobs and men in nearly all unpaid household ones, are there additional cultural changes which might encourage a different allocation of time- one more satisfactory to a woman, to her family, and to society?

For a society to survive, it must have children to carry on its values and it must defend itself against outside aggression. Men have often received credits toward job seniority and pension benefits for military service. Some private employers now grant short unpaid maternity leaves, preserving a job. A few provide leave enabling either parent to devote full time to child nurture. Many nations grant allowances to make it economically feasible for a parent of young children to relinquish paid work. Our AFDC was originally established for this purpose. Yet these unpaid leaves or meager allowances tend to interrupt job advancement and are seldom accompanied by pension credits and other work-related benefits.

Two proposals, already adopted in a few cases, come to mind. The first is to provide women and men more opportunity for voluntary part-time paid employment with full or pro-rated fringe benefits. This might serve needs often felt by those retiring after many years of paid work. However, with young adults there must be no undue pause or cessation in career advancement. The other possibility lies in greater adoption of flex-time, where workers put in a full week with workdays of differing length, thus allowing time to schedule appointments with teachers or to clean a basement. Those who recognize the double load of full-time paid plus full-time unpaid employment can work for the lightening of their sisters' burden through the Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society.

Mary F. McCarthy (retired associate professor of economics at Eastern Michigan University, is now a member of Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC, Chattanooga, TN.)

Our Church's Wider Mission through October, 1985

ALABAMA-TENNESSEE:

Alpine, Kings Chapel	\$.00
Athens, Trinity	\$.00
Belvidere, UCC	\$5,001.18
Birmingham, First	\$3,714.50
Birmingham, Pilgrim	\$2,333.43
Chattanooga, First	\$357.00
Chattanooga, Pilgrim	\$12,698.25
Crossville, Gd. Shepherd	\$1,500.00
Cullman, St. Johns	\$5,450.00
Daisy, First	\$.00
Deer Lodge	\$750.00
Fairfield Glade	\$700.00
Garden City	\$346.50
Glen Mary	\$.00
Huntsville	\$3,825.00
Knoxville, Ch. of Savior	\$.00
Marion, First	\$.00
Montgomery, First	\$.00
Nashville, Brookmeade	\$3,449.97
Nashville, First E&R	\$5,249.31
Nashville, Howard	\$400.00
Pleasant Hill Community	\$10,500.00
Robbins, Barton Chapel	\$250.00
Sweetwater, First	\$250.00
Talladega	\$.00
Tougaloo	\$.00

Barnesville, Fredonia	\$.00
Beachton, Evergreen	\$300.00
Braserton, Macedonia	\$150.00
Buford, Duncan's Creek	\$.00
Charleston, Circular	\$4,281.62
Charleston, Plymouth	\$900.00
Columbia, Pilgrim	\$598.03
Demorest, Federated	\$300.00
Dewey Rose, Liberty	\$1,249.00
Jonesboro, Bonanza UCC	\$2,575.67
Lilburn, Button Gwinnett UCC	\$765.00
Macon, First	\$.00
Marietta, Pilgrimage UCC	\$765.00
Midway Congregational	\$200.00
Savannah, First Congregational	\$1,116.00
Thomasville, Bethany	\$.00

NORTH ALABAMA ASSOCIATION:

Arley, CC	\$.00
Trinity, First CC at Caddo	\$900.00
Hackleburg, Fairview CC	\$.00
Haleyville, Union Grove Cong.	\$.00
Hanceville, Mountain Grove	\$.00
Houston, Liberty Hill CC	\$.00
Moulton, Jones Chapel	\$100.00
Steele, Mount Lebanon CC	\$.00
Town Creek, Old Liberty Grove	\$.00

EAST ALABAMA ASSOCIATION: \$17,952.00

CENTRAL ALABAMA ASSOCIATION:

East Tallassee	\$1,020.00
Eclectic, Watson's Chapel	\$100.00

GEORGIA-SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION:

Atlanta, Carroll Heights	\$.00
Atlanta, Central Congregat.	\$15,416.68
Atlanta, Rush Memorial	\$.00
Atlanta, First Congregational	\$.00

SOUTH ALABAMA-NORTHWEST FLORIDA ASSOC.

Andalusia, Antioch	\$1,500.00
Andalusia, First	\$.00
Baker, Good Hope	\$400.00
Baker, Pyron Chapel	\$175.00
Bonifay, New Effort	\$100.00
Brantley, Indian Creek	\$.00
Brantley, Liberty	\$.00
Clio, New Hope	\$.00
Headland, Blackwood	\$555.00
TOTAL.....	\$109,044.64

NEWS AND NOTES

✓Sunday, Sept. 29, 1985, installation for John Terry, new pastor at Button Gwinnett United Church of Christ.

✓Hank Tuttle has been called to Grace Reformed UCC in Washington DC.

✓Rev. David Chandler resigned his position at Lanett CC to answer a call to Pilgrim Cong. UCC in Birmingham, AL.

✓The Southeast Conference will close their 1985 books on January 10th. Any churches or individuals wishing to have monies credited to 1985 figures must have their donations to the conference office by that date.

✓Rev. Eugene Keen of Huntsville UCC, has announced his retirement to the congregation there, to begin officially on January 31, 1985. We wish him continued success in his retirement.

✓TWO CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS: Barton Chapel in Robbins, TN on Oct. 6th and Pleasant Hill Community Church on Nov. 10th. Congratulations to both congregations.

✓Rev. Marvin Morgan has resigned his position as pastor of First Congregational in Atlanta.

✓NEW ASSOCIATION MODERATORS: Alabama-Tennessee's new moderator is the Rev. S. Daniel Rosemergy. The new moderator for Georgia-South Carolina is Dr. Erna Bryant and Rev. Dale J. Foreman is in the position for South Alabama-Northwest Florida.

✓Blackwood Congregational Christian Church of Headland, AL has called the Rev. Larry Crook to fill their pulpit beginning in December, 1985.

✓Huntsville UCC celebrated their 25th anniversary on September 15th by burning their mortgage. We celebrate this significant accomplishment with our Huntsville UCC family.

✓Rev. Richard Woodward resigned as pastor of Savannah, First and has accepted a call to Midway Congregational Church in Midway, GA.

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SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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